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Sixteenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

(This report covers the week from
1 June through 7 June 1973)

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

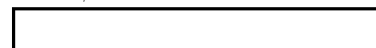
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8 June 1973



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The Key Points

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- The downward trend of North Vietnamese logistic activity in the Laotian Panhandle has continued as the rainy season progresses. There is still moderately heavy Communist logistic activity, on the other hand, in northern South Vietnam.
- Combat activity in violation of the ceasefire increased toward the end of the week in South Vietnam, and remained at a low level in Laos.

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The Details

NOTE: This is the sixteenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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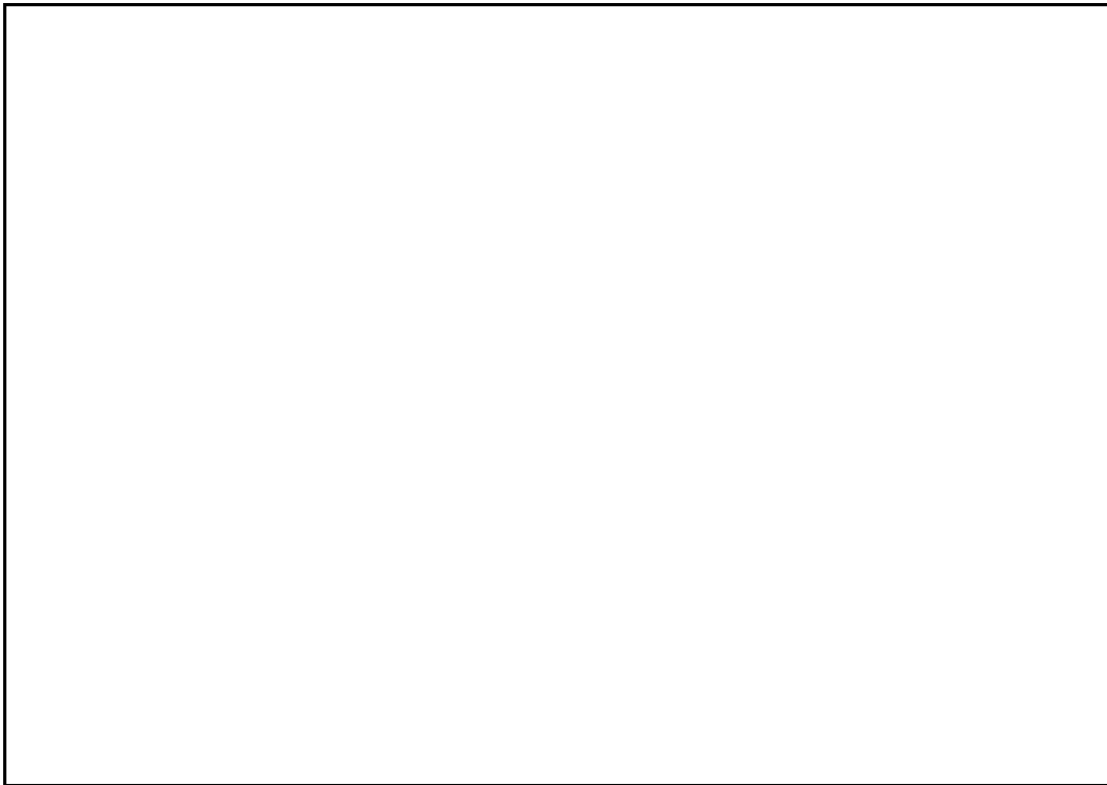
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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies
Through and Into Laos and South Vietnam


8. Continuing the downward trend since the rainy season began, observed NVA logistic activity during the reporting period was extremely light over the entire Laotian Panhandle. Although some cargo is still being moved in most areas of southern Laos, only small numbers of vehicles are being observed. Within the northern areas of South Vietnam, where inclement weather is not a factor until later this year, moderately heavy Communist logistic activity is still in progress. A substantial volume of activity also continues to be observed in the southern part of the North Vietnam Panhandle.

9. We have reported over the past several weeks that the Communists have been engaged in a major road-building effort in northern and western South Vietnam.

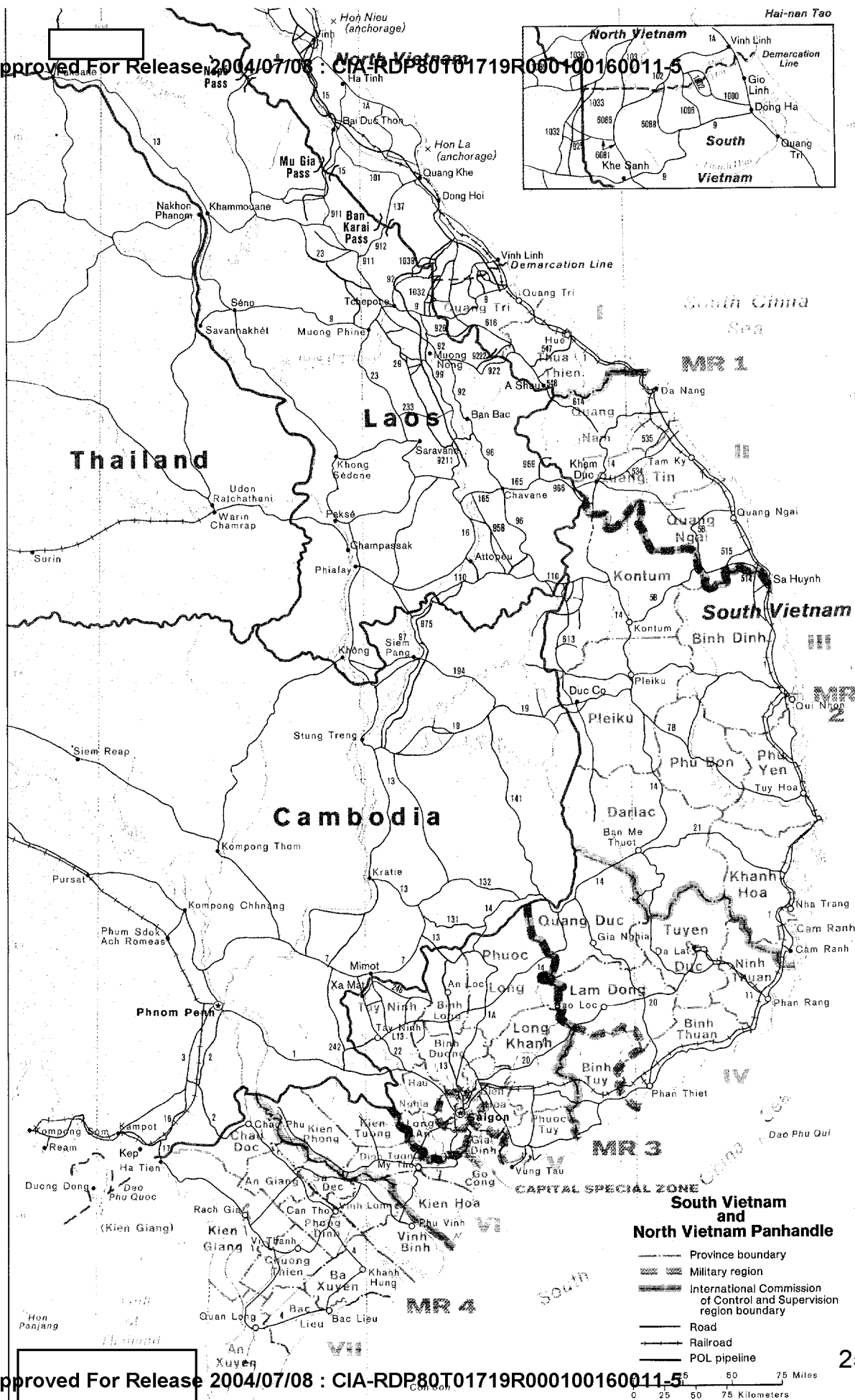
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We have suggested that the Communists might, over time, shift a significant portion of their traffic from the Ho Chi Minh Trail system in southern Laos to this new road network within South Vietnam. Recently received evidence, however, makes it clear that the North Vietnamese are also carrying out a major program of widening and improving the existing roads in the Laotian Panhandle. The North Vietnamese are presently working on roads in a number of locations in southern Laos, and the pattern of the roads being improved suggests that Hanoi intends eventually to link the various segments into a 300 mile all-season high capacity road from the entry passes on the North Vietnamese border southward to the tri-border area.

10. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

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- b) On 31 May, 56 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 548 southwest of Khe Sanh (9 northbound, 22 southbound, 25 parked).
- c) On 2 June, 32 cargo trucks were seen on Route 1 north of Dong Ha (9 northbound, 2 southbound, 21 parked). On the same day 16 cargo vehicles were noted on Route 9 between Dong Ha and Khe Sanh (4 eastbound, 9 westbound, 3 parked).

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- d) On 2 June, 29 cargo trucks were traveling on Route 616 southeast of Khe Sanh (3 northbound, 16 southbound, 10 parked).
- e) On 5 June, 111 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (44 eastbound, 24 westbound, 43 parked).
- f) On 5 June, 11 cargo vehicles were seen on Route 1 north of Dong Ha (6 northbound, 5 southbound). On the same day, 20 cargo vehicles were traveling on Route 548 north of the A Shau Valley (9 northbound, 6 southbound, 5 parked).

11. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of the activity in southern Laos probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- a) The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Route 99</u>	<u>Route 9211</u>	<u>Route 958</u>
31 May	22 (14-N, 8-S)	3 (1-N, 1-S)	0
1 June	3 (3-S)	14 (2-N, 6-S)	1 (1-S)
2 June	6 (3-N, 1-S)	0	NC**
3 June	0	0	NC**
4 June	11 (Parked)	4 (1-N, 3-S)	0
5 June	0	0	1 (1-S)
6 June	0	3 (3-S)	7 (1-N)

* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway.

** No coverage.

- b) During the first week of June, small groups of tanks were observed in the northern portion of the Laotian Panhandle on three occasions. The tanks are probably headed south, although our evidence on the direction of movement is not conclusive.
- c) On 30 May, five field artillery pieces and six antiaircraft artillery pieces were observed deployed along Route 7, the major east/west road across the northern Plaine des Jarres. There was no evidence to indicate when these weapons entered the country. On the same date, two 37-mm AAA weapons were seen being towed west on Route 7.
- d) On 1 June, 29 cargo trucks were observed on Route 911 northwest of Tchepone (9 northbound, 14 southbound, 6 parked). On 2 June, 28 cargo vehicles were seen on this route (2 northbound, 11 southbound, 15 parked) and on 4 June there were 21 trucks heading south on the road.
- e) On 1 June, 57 cargo trucks were on the segments of Route 911 southwest of the Ban Karai Pass (39 parked, 18 southbound).
- f) On 3 June, 14 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 912 south of Ban Karai Pass (3 northbound, 11 southbound). On the same route on 5 June there were 12 cargo trucks seen (10 northbound, 2 southbound).
- g) On 3 June, 30 cargo vehicles were seen on Route 110 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border (4 westbound, 13 eastbound, 13 parked).

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- h) On 5 June, 19 cargo vehicles were noted on Route 9 southeast of Tchepone (2 westbound, 17 eastbound).

12. There is additional evidence of the continuing movement within North Vietnam of military and other supplies probably destined for South Vietnam and southern Laos.

- a) On 30 and 31 May, over 130 vehicles were noted moving

south of Dong Hoi. Of the vehicles seen on the 31st, 16 were northbound and 42 were southbound.

- b) On 31 May, six cargo vehicles were observed

between two storage facilities in an area near Vinh.

- c) On 1 June, 72 cargo trucks were detected moving through the Xuan Son area south of Dong Hoi. The direction in which the vehicles were moving could not be determined.

- g) On 5 June, 25 northbound and 40 southbound cargo vehicles were observed crossing the Troc River south of Dong Hoi.

C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

13. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January and for the last week (1-7 June) are shown below:

<u>Military Region</u>	<u>Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action</u>		<u>Last Week (1-7 June) Level of Action</u>	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	991	3,253	32	76
MR 2	240	1,757	12	68
MR 3	385	2,415	17	130
MR 4	621	5,820	25	268
Totals	2,237	13,245	86 (80) <u>1/</u>	542 (496) <u>1/</u>

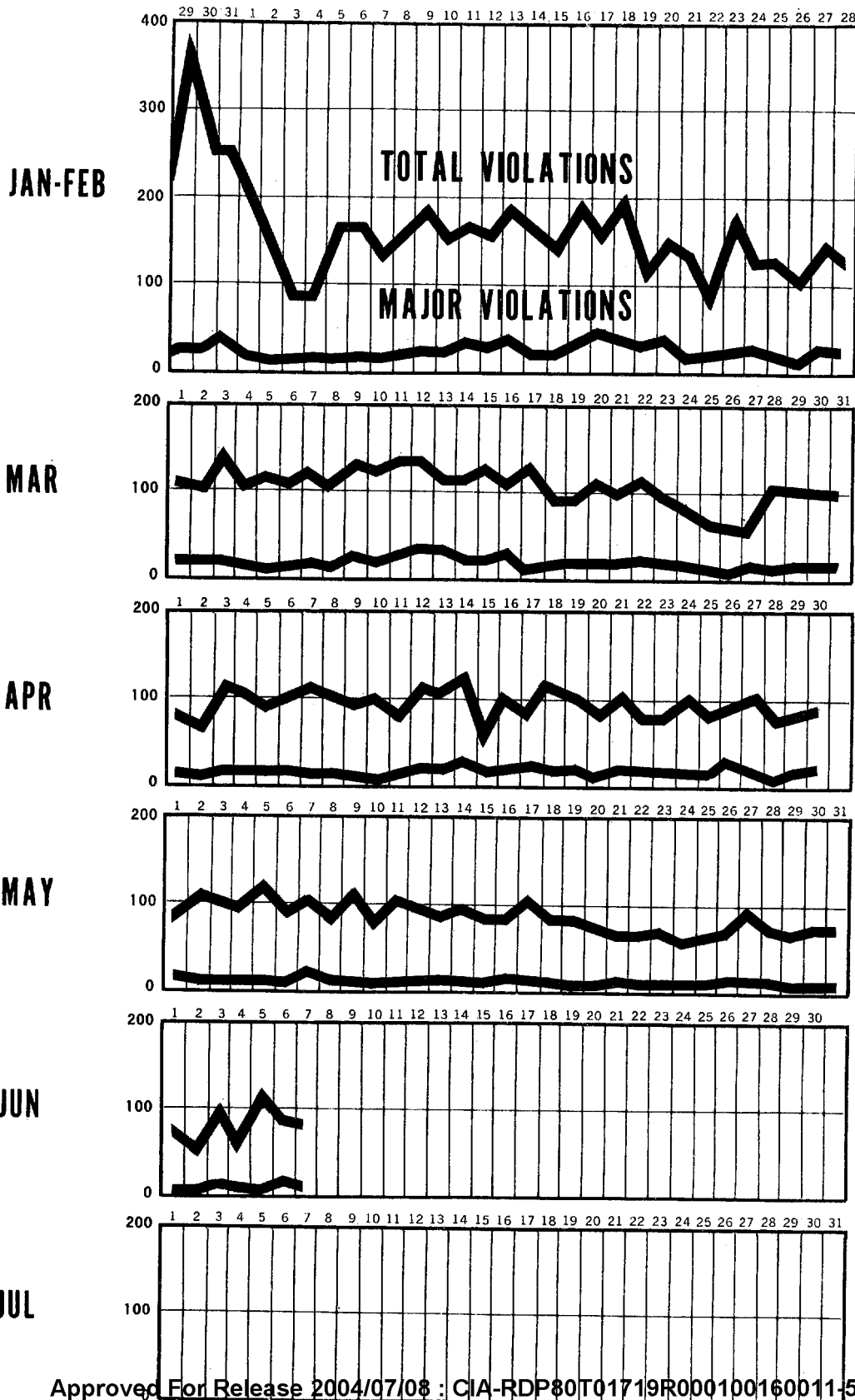
1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

14. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.



CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



15. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

MILITARY REGION 1

- a) On 5 June, ARVN Forces 15 miles southeast of Da Nang received a ground attack.

MILITARY REGION 2

- a) On 2 June, a friendly unit 10 miles west of Kontum received a ground attack.
- b) On 6 June, friendly forces 8 miles south of Bong Son received an attack by fire and follow-on ground attack.

MILITARY REGION 3

- a) On 3 June, seven miles northeast of Tay Ninh, a VNAF CH-47 helicopter was downed by an SA-7 missile.

MILITARY REGION 4

- a) On 3 June, five and 13 miles northwest of Cai Lay, ARVN infantry units received two ground attacks.
- b) On 5 June, enemy forces launched a ground attack 7 miles southeast of Can Tho.
- c) On 5 June, an enemy attack 7 miles west of Vi Thanh resulted in heavy casualties on both sides.
- d) On 6 June, ARVN positions 15 miles north of Vinh Long received a ground attack.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in Laos During the Week From 1 Through 7 June

16. Small Communist-initiated attacks occurred in both Military Regions 1 and 2 of northern Laos toward the end of the week, while southern Laos remained generally calm throughout the period. Specific incidents included:

- a) On 6 June, Royal Lao Government troops in the Mekong River town of Pak Tha on the Sayaboury/Luang Prabang Province border reported they were under attack by an estimated company. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reported a build-up of four Pathet Lao companies south-east of Pak Tha which allegedly planned to attack Pak Tha and Ban Houei Sai in Houa Khong Province.

- b) Also on 6 June, government troops at the San Soak airstrip in extreme northern Khammouane Province were forced to withdraw westward following an attack by an estimated company. This RLG enclave, which is defended only by local militia forces, has come under increasing pressure in the past two weeks.

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